

Lucky Wycombe —For A Change

by Argus

Kingstonian 1;

Wycombe Wanderers 1

IT seems an eternity since Wycombe Wanderers enjoyed a fair share of honest-to-goodness unashamed good fortune but the events at Kingston on Saturday provided just this consolation. Wanderers were extremely lucky to get away with an Isthmian League point. Kingstonian had fully two-thirds of the attacking play and but for some finishing that verged on the ludicrous must have won.

Kingstonian fans were right to be mystified by this 1-1 draw. Aided by instinct, incredible agility and probably self preservation Ken Brown kept a great Wycombe goal and was the hero of the hour but his biggest assets were the K's inside forwards who wasted chance after chance by wild shooting.

The former Dulwich Hamlet "wonder boy" Mike Clay was the biggest culprit despite his non-stop persistence.

Wycombe's defence, in the thick of the action for most of the game, kept cool and methodical. Pivot John Fisher was mistake-prone under pressure but a strong and powerful defender nonetheless. Wing-halves Dave Thomas and Charles Gale ran their legs off trying to instil some sense of urgency into the forwards while full-backs John Beck and Alistair Lewis coped splendidly with the dangerous Kingston wingmen Norman Field and Mike Candey.

After averaging five goals in their last three outings, the Wanderers forwards were far below their best. Pick of the line was Len Worley who had a good second half, flitting past full-back Bird with increasing confidence.

Alan Murphy, on the left-wing, saw comparatively little of the ball but the biggest disappointment were the inside forwards who were slow and hesitant and strangely reluctant to shoot. Home goalkeeper Wakefield did not have one shot to deal with in the first 30 minutes. Tommy Holmes and Peter James were subdued by some sharp Kingston tackling and rarely threatened while Gordon Blair only glittered in sharp, sporadic flashes.

But it was Blair's speed off the mark which gave Wycombe their best moments. And it was Blair, bobbing up in the penalty area in the last second of the first half, who glided Peter James' centre into the net for the opening goal.

Play warmed up considerably after a rather dreary first half and K's went flat out for the equaliser. After appealing hotly and vainly for the vital goal on the grounds that Myers' header had entered the net before Brown scooped it away, K's did level the scores in the 69th minute.

The tall, elegant centre-half Dennis Joyce roamed into the Wycombe penalty area to snap a shot into the roof of the net after evading some rather vapid Wycombe tackles.

Although the Wycombe forwards improved considerably in the final half hour, Kingstonian still developed the bulk of the attacks and inside-left Martin must still be wondering how he failed to score the winner after Fisher had mis-kicked in the Wanderers' penalty area.

WYCOMBE GRAB LONE CHANCE

Kingstonian 1 Wycombe W. 1

MERE effort does not win matches. This old lesson was hammered home at Kingston, when Kingstonian gained only one point from the Isthmian League clash with Wycombe Wanderers.

Yet they mounted with bewildering persistence one well directed move another another for all but a few fleeting moments.

If Kingstonian could be blamed for anything it would be for trying too hard to score. Their forwards sacrificed poise for first-time shooting from awkward angles.

Too often a forward wasted the team's impressive ground work by shooting from an acute angle while being shadowed by two or more Wycombe defenders.

Or they shot from way out, instead of passing to a player unmarked or positioned well.

With Kingstonian failing to force home this midfield supremacy, the inevitable was bound to happen. Wycombe launched one penetrating move to snatch an interval lead.

With just seconds to go before the change-over, centre-forward James took over the right wing momentarily and centred for Blair, the inside left, to score from close in.

The second half saw Kingstonian fight even harder, but it was left to centre-half Joyce to show them the way to score.

He moved into the penalty area for a corner, and stayed there for a couple of minutes to shoot from only two yards in the 69th minute after his first shot had been blocked by Brown.